

## AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION BY EXCHANGE OF CERTAIN LANDS FOR ADDITION TO THE SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK, CALIF.

DECEMBER 1 (legislative day, NOVEMBER 18), 1943.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. ANDREWS, from the Committee on Public Lands and Surveys,  
submitted the following

### REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 2641]

The Senate Committee on Public Lands and Surveys, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 2641) to authorize the acquisition by exchange of certain lands for addition to the Sequoia National Park, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and with the recommendation that it do pass.

The explanation of the bill, as carried in the report of the House Committee on Public Lands, is hereinbelow set forth in full and made a part of this report.

#### EXPLANATION OF THE

The purpose of this bill is to permit the Federal Government to acquire for addition to the Sequoia National Park, without the outlay of Federal moneys, certain privately owned land situated near the Ash Mountain entrance to the park. The private property would be acquired in exchange for federally owned land of equal value, and the addition to the park of this land, which adjoins the park entrance, would give proper Federal control and protection to the entrance from undesirable developments. The acquisition by exchange of certain lands for addition to the Sequoia National Park has been recommended by the Secretary of the Interior in his report on H. R. 2641, dated September 14, 1943, and he also states that the Bureau of the Budget would have no objection. The letter is as follows and is hereby made a part of this report:

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT,  
Washington, September 14, 1943.

HON. J. HARDIN PETERSON,  
*Chairman, Committee on the Public Lands,  
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.*

MY DEAR MR. PETERSON: Further reference is made to the request of your committee for a report on H. R. 2641, entitled "A bill to authorize the acquisition by exchange of certain lands for addition to the Sequoia National Park."

I recommend that H. R. 2641 be enacted.

## 2 EXCHANGE OF LANDS FOR ADDITION TO SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK

The purpose of this bill is to permit the Federal Government to acquire for addition to the Sequoia National Park, without the outlay of Federal moneys, certain privately owned land situated near the Ash Mountain entrance to the park. The private property would be acquired in exchange for federally owned land of equal value, as shown on the enclosed map. The addition to the park of this land, which adjoins the park entrance, would give proper Federal control and protection to the entrance from undesirable developments.

The proposed exchange has been the subject of negotiation for several years between this Department and the owners of the private property. A thorough field investigation of the proposed exchange has been made by this Department. It is desirable that the exchange be consummated before the private owners dispose of their property in some other manner.

Two separate exchanges would be authorized by the bill. The various tracts involved in the proposal are shown on the enclosed map. One of the exchanges involves tract A, comprising more than 2 acres owned by the Southern California Edison Co. Tract A would be acquired by the Federal Government in exchange for tract D, an area of approximately the same acreage within the Sequoia National Park. The latter tract is being used by the company by special arrangement with this Department. A portion of a power plant, two residences, and other improvements owned by the company are situated on this tract.

The other exchange involves the acquisition by the Federal Government of tracts B and C, comprising approximately 40 acres of privately owned land. These tracts would be acquired in exchange for federally owned lands in tract E, comprising approximately 188 acres. The field investigation of this Department indicates that the value of tracts B and C is equal to the value of tract E, which consists chiefly of grazing land. The land in tracts B and C is of considerably greater value per acre principally due to the fact that it is advantageously situated adjacent to the park entrance highway.

I have been advised by the Bureau of the Budget that there would be no objection by that Bureau to the presentation of this report to the Congress.

Sincerely yours,

ABE FORTAS,  
*Acting Secretary of the Interior.*

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